

HOME EDITION

TUESDAY EVENING.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, SEPTEMBER 7, 1915.

TUESDAY EVENING.

THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

## TERRIFIC EXPLOSION, THEN FIRE, DOWN TOWN STORES

Seven Persons Injured and Loss  
Amounted to \$41,000.

Greenbaum and Flad Stores Are  
Ripped Wide Open.

STRUCK BY FLYING GLASS

Plate Glass Windows Thrown  
Across Kansas Avenue.

One Man Was Hit by "Form"  
Dressed in Paris Gown.

THEY SMELLED GAS FOR JAYS

Excavation in Alley Brought  
About Deadly Leak.

Fire Wagon in Collision Added  
to Morning Thrill.

COLORED MAN STRUCK MATCH

Greenbaum Porter Ignited Gas  
Accidentally Is Report.

Fumes Throughout Buildings  
in That Vicinity.

INJURED.

Willis Roley, Oklahoma City,  
slung from a head, right  
hand burned and bruised by  
being hurled by force of explosion.

Harry Hopper, chauffeur for  
Joseph Hanlon, chief of the fire  
department, right arm crushed,  
bruises on right arm and leg.

Maurice Schlegel, chief clerk  
W. A. L. Thompson Hardware  
company, cut left hand, bruised  
on head. One suit of clothes rid-  
dled by flying glass.

Robert Morton, clerk at Flad  
Brothers, few slight burns and  
bruises.

James White, colored porter at  
Flad Brothers, slight burns and  
bruises.

George Fletcher, farmer at  
Rochester, body bruised.

Lester Wood, colored porter at  
Greenbaum's, severe burns on one  
hand.

DAMAGE.

Greenbaum Stock ..... \$18,000  
Flad Drug Store ..... 8,000  
Courtney Millinery ..... 8,000  
Dr. J. H. Pierce ..... 100  
Newark Shoe Store ..... 100  
Dr. N. M. Grist ..... 25  
Greenbaum Building ..... 7,000  
Flad Building ..... 1,500  
Courtney Building ..... 1,500

Total ..... \$41,225

As the result of an explosion of gas  
in the Greenbaum Cloak and Suit  
House, 605 Kansas avenue, shortly  
before seven o'clock this morning, six  
persons were injured and the property  
loss is estimated between \$50,000 and  
\$75,000.

Shortly after the first explosion a  
second occurred in the Flad drug  
store, 607 Kansas avenue. Fire re-  
sulting from the explosion broke out  
in the third story of the building oc-  
cupied by the Courtney Millinery store  
at 603 Kansas avenue. Fire damage  
was confined to the top floor of this  
building.

Of the persons injured none are se-  
riously hurt. Harry Hooper, driver  
for Joseph Hanlon, chief of the fire  
department, received bruises on his  
head and right arm and leg. His right  
ear was also mangled. He received his  
injuries when the chief's car smashed  
into a huckster wagon. The driver of  
the wagon, George Fletcher, of Ro-  
chester, was thrown to the street and  
bruised, and his wagon which was  
loaded with grapes was wrecked. The  
damage to the fire department wagon  
was a broken steering gear, a bent  
door, and a broken hub cap. The seat  
in which Hooper was sitting was also  
crushed.

Cause of Fire.

The fire and explosion resulted from  
gas which escaped from a service pipe  
in front of the building at 605 Kan-  
sas avenue. It was announced this  
afternoon. The gas apparently worked  
into the cellar below the walls of the  
Flad drug store building and the  
building occupied by the Greenbaum  
company. Early this afternoon the  
street in front of 605 was dug up and  
the leak stopped.

Porter Struck a Match.

The explosion in the Greenbaum  
store resulted when the colored porter  
struck a match. There was one other  
person in the room at the time. This  
man rushed out the front door with  
his clothes on fire. He escaped with-  
out injury. The porter went out the  
back door and for some time it was  
not known he had escaped.

The force of the explosion blew  
pieces of plate glass clear across Kan-  
sas avenue. A number of bulky fig-  
ures in the window were hurled out  
onto the street. The explosion was  
heard two blocks away and when per-  
sons started for the scene the pros-  
trate figures gave one the impression  
that many people had been killed.

Fire followed the explosion in the  
Greenbaum store. Apparently the en-  
tire room was full of gas. Such was  
not the condition, however, the Flad  
store. Apparently the gas was con-  
fined between the ceiling and the  
floor of the second story.

There was a terrific explosion there.  
The ceiling was blown to the floor  
with great force. In the second story  
the boards of the floor were bulged

## FIRE CHIEF'S WARNING

Joseph Hanlon, chief of the fire  
department, today issued a warn-  
ing to the public urging all per-  
sons immediately to report to the  
building inspector whenever the  
odor of escaping gas is detected.

"Today's explosions and conse-  
quent fire loss and personal inju-  
ries might have been avoided. Since  
Thursday persons were noticing the  
scent of gas, but no report was  
made and the gas continued to seep  
through the buildings, until in the  
opinion of the fire chief, half of  
the buildings in one city block  
contained dangerous quantities of  
gas either in the rooms or in the  
spaces in the walls and between the  
floors and ceilings.

"It is a wonder half the block  
was not wrecked," said the chief.  
"The risk of this and the damage  
which actually resulted were pre-  
ventable."

up, showing beyond question just  
where the explosion force was cen-  
tered.

Damage by Fire.

Estimates made early this after-  
noon indicate that the total loss will  
be slightly more than \$40,000. This  
will cover damage to the buildings at  
605 Kansas avenue, owned by Mrs. C.  
C. Shepherd of Plymouth, N. H., and  
Miss Alice Davies of Los Angeles; 605  
Kansas avenue, owned by the C. W.  
Greenbaum building, owned by Baker  
university, and the stock and fixtures of  
the Greenbaum company, the Flad  
drug store, the Courtney Millinery  
store and small losses to the offices of  
a dentist and chiropractor above the  
Flad store and the Newark Shoe com-  
pany branch store at 603 Kansas  
avenue.

Greenbaum's Loss.

The heaviest loss was suffered by  
the Greenbaum Cloak and Suit com-  
pany, that concern having insured for  
\$9 per cent of its stock insured. The  
value of the stock and fixtures which  
are practically an entire loss was  
given as \$18,000. Insurance was  
carried of but \$8,000. The building  
is totally wrecked and is valued at  
\$7,000, according to Stephenson &  
Webb, agents for the Jewell estate.

Rebuild Building.

The building will be rebuilt im-  
mediately. It was expected that the  
company, which is located in the store  
room, will secure temporary quarters.

The heaviest loss to the Flad Drug  
store resulted mainly from water and  
falling plaster. Little damage result-  
ed from fire. The loss to the store will  
reach nearly \$5,000, it was stated. It  
is covered by insurance.

The Courtney Millinery company's  
loss as a result of the fire will amount  
to \$8,000, according to an estimate  
made this afternoon. Less than two-  
thirds of this amount is covered by  
insurance.

The estimated damage to the building at  
605 Kansas avenue is \$15,000. Dam-  
age to the building at 607 Kansas  
avenue is placed at the same figure.  
Both losses are covered by insurance.

The damage to the Flad drug store  
and the Newark Shoe company was  
broken and interior decorations were  
ruined.

Dental Parlors Wrecked.

The dental parlors of Dr. L. L.  
Goodwin were wrecked. There was  
also fire and water damage in a store  
room back of the dental parlors. The  
Courtney Millinery company sustained  
property loss both from the fire and  
water. The loss to the store will  
reach nearly \$5,000, it was stated. It  
is covered by insurance.

Indications are that gas had found  
its way there in the fire. The fire  
in the Flad store and ignited from the  
fire in the Greenbaum store.

The fire loss in the Flad store was  
practically nothing. The only blaze  
there, found, there was in a  
broken bottle of alcohol. The water  
damage there was also slight. The  
principal damage resulted in the  
same place, the explosion and crash of  
the ceiling down onto the fixtures.  
Both the Flad brothers said it would  
be impossible to form an estimate of  
their loss without making a more  
thorough examination.

Gas Throughout Buildings.

The escaping gas which resulted in  
the two explosions, apparently had  
permeated through the rafters and be-  
tween the ceilings and floors of prac-  
tically half the buildings in the block,  
and the wonder is that damage was  
as limited.

The odor of gas was detected Thurs-  
day. T. E. Sheard, who conducts a  
barber shop in the basement of the  
Savings Bank building, southwest cor-  
ner of Sixth and Kansas avenue, says  
the smell of gas was strong whenever  
the wind blew from the north. From  
this Chief Hanlon concludes that the  
leak was in the gas mains outside of  
the buildings.

"A peculiar characteristic of gas,"  
said the chief, "is that it will follow  
the outside of a service pipe in and  
through a building."

Other persons report smelling gas  
for several days, but Chief Hanlon  
says that the matter was not reported  
to him.

Maurice Schlegel, chief clerk W. A. L.  
Thompson Hardware company, re-  
ceiving a cut on the left hand, sev-  
eral bruises on the head, and his trou-  
sers and the back of his coat were rid-  
dled with flying glass. Schlegel was  
passing shortly after the explosion in  
the Greenbaum store. Robert Morton  
and a colored porter, employed at the  
Flad store, had just entered and  
Schlegel was standing in front of the  
door looking in when the explosion  
occurred.

When Schlegel saw the flash he  
stopped and put his hands over his  
face to protect his eyes. He at this  
time saw the explosion and ran to the  
quick work, and done fast enough to  
protect his face. Flying pieces of glass  
struck the back of his head, and tore  
holes in his clothes, and also cut one  
hand. He had a very narrow escape.  
A large piece of glass cut a large rent  
in his trousers above the knee, but  
missed his body.

In the store at the time were Bob  
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## FLOCK OVER LINE

Unusual Influx of Mexicans  
Puzzles U. S. Officers.

Many Strangers Stay to Push  
San Diego Plan.

## MORE BANDITS ARE SLAIN

Meager Report Tells of An-  
other Border Battle.

Raiders Believed Worst of in  
Clash With Deputies.

Brownsville, Tex., Sept. 7.—  
Deputy sheriffs and men  
fought across the Rio Grande for  
a few minutes late yesterday near  
Mission, Texas. Apparently some  
of the Mexicans were hit.

Brownsville, Tex., Sept. 7.—The  
unusual influx of Mexicans from Ma-  
tamoras to the American side here late  
Saturday, when the fighting across the  
international line at Cavazos crossing  
was at its height, it was learned to-  
day still puzzles some of the author-  
ities. About 500 Mexicans came to  
Brownsville a day against the nor-  
mal influx of 300 a day. While many  
of these Mexicans returned to the  
other side, not all have been ac-  
counted for.

Officers at river crossings here  
noted that the incoming Mexicans in-  
cluded many whose names and faces  
were strange to them. For some time  
the American authorities have sus-  
pected that some of the Mexicans en-  
gaged in the bandit raids or in spread-  
ing the propaganda of the plan of San  
Diego to reconquer the southern most  
strip of the United States along the  
border from the mouth of the Rio  
Grande to the Pacific have been com-  
ing into Brownsville whenever they  
wished, some of them from Mexico by  
appearing at the crossings upon an or-  
dinary business or travel. It is notable  
that while few Americans cross the  
river to Matamoras from here the  
Mexicans have been coming to Brown-  
sville and the international bridge has  
remained about normal, or has even in-  
creased slightly.

Reference to the statement of Gen. E. P.  
Nafarrete at Matamoras that Texas rangers  
by carelessness in firing across the bound-  
ary had killed 150 Mexicans, it doubtful  
whether his troops can co-  
operate with the American soldiers in stop-  
ping the Mexican bandits. The state  
officials here today said that the rangers  
have mostly been working in the interior  
of Mexico, and the river bank has  
been kept by deputy sheriffs or regular  
cavalry.

Carrazza Disavows Banditry.

Washington, Sept. 7.—General Car-  
razza and his commanding generals  
disavowed the statement that the  
Carrazza agency here today deny-  
ing that any of their soldiers have  
taken part in raids on Texas or in  
trips across the river.

More Troops Go South.

Jackson, Tenn., Sept. 7.—A special  
train of twenty-seven cars, carrying  
Battery B of the Third field artillery  
from Camp Robinson, Wis., passed  
through here today en route to San  
Antonio, Tex. The troops will strength-  
en the forces engaged in protecting the  
border from the Mexican bandits.  
The movement comprises  
nine officers and 155 soldiers, together  
with full equipment for field work.

Border Raiders Field.

Washington, Sept. 7.—A day's ces-  
sation of raiding on the lower Rio  
Grande and the announcement that  
General Carrazza had ordered his  
troops to discontinue their co-  
operation in the campaign against Mexican  
bandits, left officials here to believe  
that the gravity of the border situa-  
tion would require the removal of 1,000  
American troops in the vicinity  
still have orders, however, to be ready  
to handle any emergency.

## LD LOOSE IN K. C.

Governor Capper Tells Mayor  
About It Over Phone.

Information Warrants Remov-  
al of Several Officials.

Kansas City, Kan., Sept. 7.—Govern-  
nor Capper today told Mayor Green  
in a long distance conversation that  
he had information against Chief of  
Police Thomas Fleming, Judge J. H.  
Brady and Captain of Police R.  
Bonwell, concerning the prohibition  
enforcement which, if true, would  
warrant their removal from office. It  
is understood here that Mayor Green  
and Chief Gordon are not involved.

## DIRECTORS RESIGN.

A. C. James and K. J. McLean Quit  
Rock Island Board.

Arthur Curtis James and K. J. James  
McLean have sent in their resig-  
nations as directors of the Chicago,  
Rock Island and Pacific Railway com-  
pany, according to a dispatch from  
New York City. This is one of the  
most important incidents of the Rock  
Island financial difficulties and re-  
ceivership.

James is a prominent director, be-  
ing closely allied with the Phelps-  
Dodge interests, who controlled the  
line when it went in the hands of  
receivers. He is vice president of  
Phelps, Dodge & Co., a director of the  
Chicago and Northwestern railroad  
and many other corporations.

French Steamship Down.

Paris, Sept. 7.—The French steam-  
ship Bordeaux has been torpedoed and  
sunk 12 miles outside the mouth of the  
Gironde off the western coast of  
France. Her crew was taken aboard a  
pilot boat.

Michael Jenkins Dead.

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 7.—Michael  
Jenkins, a well-known Baltimore an-  
thropologist, died at his home here  
today of pneumonia.

Weather Forecast for Kansas.

Partly cloudy tonight and Wednes-  
day; cooler tonight.

## MANSION HELD UP

Mrs. J. Ogden Armour Battles  
With Burglar.

Thieves Make Off With Jewels  
Valued at \$3,300.

## HAND TO HAND FIGHT FOR GEMS

Packer's Wife Grasps Gun in  
Desperate Encounter.

Mistress and Three Maids Over-  
powered by Robbers.

Chicago, Sept. 7.—Mrs. J. Ogden  
Armour, wife of the millionaire  
packer, today related the story of her  
experiences last night with two  
masked and armed robbers who  
looted the Armour residence, 3724  
Michigan avenue of jewelry valued at  
\$3,300.

Mrs. Armour, although stunned for  
a moment by a blow on the head with  
a billy, fought hand to hand with one  
of the robbers. She grasped the bar-  
rel of a revolver pressed into her face,  
threw it over her head, and began to  
struggle with the man, calling out to  
her servants.

Man Appears at Bedroom.

Mrs. Armour had retired for the  
night and not more than half an hour  
had passed when a knock was heard  
at her door. She called the name of  
her maid. A man answered in a fal-  
setto voice. "Fearing something  
wrong, she threw open the door and  
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## SLAVS IN A PANIC

False Report of Riga's Fall  
Terrifies Petrograd.

## Russ Holding; But Czar Plans

to Move to Interior.

Berlin, Sept. 7.—The Overseas News  
agency says a panic was caused by  
Petrograd yesterday by rumors that  
the Russian Baltic port of Riga had  
been captured.

London, Anzeiger publishes pri-  
vate telegrams from Stockholm, says  
the news agency, "stating that the  
Russian capital was thrown into con-  
fusion by reports that the position only  
of the Dvina had been captured; that  
Russian armies had been destroyed; that  
Riga had been taken and the German  
army advanced upon the capital."  
The news agency adds that the  
imense crowds gathered in front of the  
newspaper offices. There was great  
excitement and many arrests were  
made.

"Toward evening the newspapers  
published extra editions containing  
official denials of these rumors and  
stating that the Russian defensive posi-  
tions still were intact.

"However, the spread of panic at  
the capital and reports of Emperor  
Nicholas' trip to the front are said  
to pretend to veil the removal of the  
emperor's residence to the interior."

## DAUGHTER TO ADELBERT

Daughter to Kaiser's Third Son and  
Wife Dies Soon After Birth.

London, Sept. 7.—Princess Adelbert,  
wife of the third son of the German  
emperor, gave birth to a daughter  
Sunday. The child died soon after its  
birth. The condition of the princess is  
reported to be satisfactory.

Prince Adelbert and Princess Adel-  
bert of Saxe-Meiningen were married  
in 1914. Less than a month  
later the prince was reported killed in  
battle at Brussels, but the rumor had  
no foundation. In March of this year  
he was promoted to the rank of cap-  
tain in the navy and major in the  
army.

## JOHNSTON IN THE LEAD

Young Player Sets McLoughlin Fast  
Pace in Tennis Matches.

Forest Hills, Sept. 7.—William M.  
Johnston and Maurice E. McLoughlin,  
both of San Francisco, met on the  
courts of the West Side club here this  
afternoon to decide which should be  
proclaimed the United States lawn ten-  
nis champion in singles for 1915. Mc-  
Loughlin won the first set, six games  
to one.

The warrant for the money has  
been at County Clerk Swayze's office  
since 1911, and no one has said  
about it until last week when Matt  
Weightman, county treasurer, sent a  
notice to Swayze that the land upon  
which the county house stands would  
be sold for taxes, \$193.83, Tuesday,  
September 7. Swayze took the notice  
to the county attorney's office and  
wanted to know what he should do  
about the matter.

"The money has been in my office  
and the city has not come after it," he  
explained.

The law on the matter as the county  
attorney's force found it states that  
the money for taxes shall be paid to  
county clerks. Individuals have to go  
to the city hall to pay their money and  
the law does not exempt the county  
from such procedure.

Swayze claims that he could not  
carry his book up to the city clerk's  
office to have it signed, as the law  
says it must be signed when a warrant  
is issued. The county clerk never has  
taken money to anyone, and why  
should he take money for taxes to the  
city even if by not doing so the county  
would have to spend a few hundred  
dollars in interest. Law is law. Of  
the other hand the city never has gone  
out to collect tax money and why  
should it do so in this case.

As a result of this mixup the land  
upon which the county court house  
stands was sold for taxes this morning.  
Edwin A. Campbell, treasurer-elect,  
put the land up for sale last night.  
Weightman, county treasurer, bid it in  
for the county. A little bookkeeping  
was done and the sale consummated.  
No money changed hands, however, as  
the money was raised, the city's four  
and one-half per cent improvement bonds  
go on as before and the county con-  
tinues to owe for her share of the pay-  
ing.

Now, who holds the sack?

"NICHOLAS."

President Poincare sent the fol-  
lowing response today:

"I know that your majesty in  
taking command of your heroic  
armies, intends to continue energet-  
ically until final victory the war  
which has been imposed upon the  
allied nations. I address to your  
majesty in the name of France, my  
most cordial wishes.

(Signed) "RAYMOND POINCARÉ."

Paris, Sept. 7.—In a message to  
President Poincare, Emperor Nicholas  
announces he has placed him-  
self in command of all the Rus-  
sian armies.

The message was sent from  
Tsarskoe Selo, the emperor's resi-  
dence, and was received here Sunday  
of September 6. It follows:

"In placing myself today at the  
head of my valiant armies, I have  
in my heart, Monsieur President,  
the most sincere wishes for the  
greatness of France and the victory  
of her glorious army.

(Signed) "NICHOLAS."

Paris, Sept. 7.—The French steam-  
ship Bordeaux has been torpedoed and  
sunk 12 miles outside the mouth of the  
Gironde off the western coast of  
France. Her crew was taken aboard a  
pilot boat.

Michael Jenkins Dead.

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 7.—Michael  
Jenkins, a well-known Baltimore an-  
thropologist, died at his home here  
today of pneumonia.

Weather Forecast for Kansas.

Partly cloudy tonight and Wednes-  
day; cooler tonight.

## MUST TAKE RGA

Germans Covet Base for March  
on Petrograd.

Plan Winter Quarters at Port  
on Baltic.

## STRUGGLE TO BRIDGE DVINA

Swift Current and Slav Fire  
Retard Hindenburg.

Great Artillery Bombardment  
Still Rages in West.

London, Sept. 7.—The immediate  
objective of the Austro-German cam-  
paign in Russia becomes clearer with  
the growing indications that the in-  
vaders need the Baltic port of Riga  
not only as a base for present opera-  
tions in the direction of Petrograd, but  
as winter quarters in case the attempt  
to reach Russian capitals should be  
postponed until next spring.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg is ex-  
periencing great difficulty in bridging  
the portions of the Dvina held by the  
Germans. The current of the river is  
too swift for the construction of pon-  
toon bridges under the Russian artill-  
ery fire.

Along the other sectors of the eastern  
front the impetus of the Austro-  
German rush has been considerably  
checked. Vienna admits that fierce  
counterattacks by the Russians have  
brought the advance along the Gallician  
border almost to a standstill.

There were no signs of lessening of  
the notable artillery activity along the  
front in France.

The German admiralty announced  
today that a small British cruiser of an  
old type was sunk several weeks ago  
by the German submarine U-27 off  
the Hebrides. The submarine, her-  
self, however, doubtless is lost, the ad-  
miralty states.

Unsuccessful bombardment by land  
and sea of Turkish positions at Anaf-  
arta and Seddul Bahr on the Gallipoli  
peninsula, is reported by Constantinople.

FIGHT TEN YEARS.

Russia Not to Yield, Even if Petro-  
grad and Moscow Be Lost.

Petrograd, Sept. 7.—Russia is de-  
termined to fight five, even ten years,  
if necessary," declared M. Rodzianko,  
president of the duma, in an interview  
today. "If it should happen that we  
are forced to give up Petrograd and  
Moscow, we will retire to the defenses  
of the Ural mountains and continue  
the war."

Russia has twelve million soldiers  
who will fight to the last drop of  
blood. They will not think of peace  
while a single enemy soldier remains  
on Russian soil."

## SOLD FOR TAXES

Court House Is Bid in by Shaw-  
nee County.

Paying Tax Situation Is Still  
Further Complicated.

Who holds the sack,